

THE CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS 29th September, 2021

Cabinet Meeting – 29th September, 2021

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 29th September, 2021, which was held at the Financial Services Commission's Conference Room.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Premier and Minister of Finance, Hon. Andrew A. Fahie and Minister for Transportation, Works and Utilities Hon. Kye Rymer, who were overseas on official business.

The Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and approved the revised cruise bubble operation plan entitled, "Cruise Protocol and Operation Plan" that sets out the protocols for the safe and controlled acceptance of passenger cruise calls during a pandemic, which replaces all normal operating procedures until the Health Emergency Operations Centre advises otherwise and the return to normal operating procedures is re-established.
2. Decided that the tender process be waived and the Government of the Virgin Islands enter into an agreement with the Wellness Center Behavioral Health Clinic LTD in the amount not to exceed one hundred and forty-seven thousand, seven hundred and sixty dollars (\$147,760.00) for contracting services to special needs students by the aforementioned Wellness Center retroactively from 1st January, 2021 to 31st August, 2022, due to the lack of technical expertise in this specialised area in the Territory to handle such complexities and volume, and would allow for the Special Education Unit within the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture to become adequately staffed and equipped to handle such matters.
3. Decided that the tender process be waived for the provision of transportation services by Top Priority Security Services Ltd. of government funds (revenue) collected from various departments and transferred to the banks for the period 1st January, 2021 to 31st December, 2021 in the sum of two hundred and eighty-six thousand, eight hundred and forty-five dollars (\$286,845.00); and that a notice for tender should be issued to procure the services for the upcoming year 2022.

4. Decided that the tender process be exceptionally waived and a contract be awarded for the engagement of Project Management Services to manage the Housing Reconstruction Projects being undertaken by the Housing Unit of the Ministry of Health and Social Development for a period of nine (9) months; that Project Management and Construction Solutions be compensated at a rate of six thousand, six hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty-six cents (\$6,666.66) per month; and that all costs associated with the issuance of this consultancy contract be charged to the National Bank of the Virgin Islands.
5. Reviewed and accepted the 2019 Annual Reports for the Department of Culture; Public Library Services Department, and the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports; and decided that all three (3) Reports be tabled in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
6. Noted:
 - a. the publication of a vacancy notice for the position of Chairman of the Social Security Board and the process of reviewing the expression of interest received in response to the vacancy notice;
 - b. the recommendation of the interview panel convened to consider applications for a new Chairman of the Social Security Board and the agreement of the Leader of the Opposition to the appointment of Mr. Glenroy Forbes as Chairman of the Social Security Board in accordance with the Schedule of the Social Security Ordinance, Section 4(1);
 - c. and approved the formal appointment of Mr. Glenroy Forbes as a member representing employers and to be the new Chairman of the Social Security Board of Directors, effective 1st October, 2021 for a period of three (3) years in the first instance in accordance with the Schedule of the Social Security Ordinance, Section 4(2); and noted that all administrative costs related to the appointment of the Chairman will be met by the BVI Social Security Board.
7. Decided:
 - a. that the Public Health (COVID-19 Control and Suppression Measures) Order, which expires on 30th September, 2021 be extended;
 - b. that fully vaccinated staff and patrons at nightclubs be required to provide identification and proof of vaccination; and that they be required to provide the negative result of a rapid test no older than seven (7) days; and

- c. that adjustments be made to the Entry Protocols to allow all vessels with fully vaccinated captain, crew and passengers, including foreign based charter boats to travel to the Territory and enter at the designated, fully vaccinated ports of entry (Great Harbour – Jost Van Dyke, Sopher's Hole - West End and Spanish Town - Virgin Gorda).
8. Decided to advise the National Security Council that the current curfew be extended for a further fourteen (14) days from 4th October, 2021 and that the curfew hours of 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. be maintained.

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2. Only a summary of the decisions will be published.
3. Cabinet discussions will not be disclosed.
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